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A  
PETITION

PRESENTED BY

*Capt. Alexander Patterson,*

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA,

DURING

The Session of 1803—4, for Compensation for the *Monies*  
he *Expended* and the *Services* he *Rendered* in *Defence*

OF THE

PENNSYLVANIA TITLE,

AGAINST THE

CONNECTICUT CLAIMANTS;

IN WHICH IS COMPRISED,

A faithful historical detail of *important* and *interesting* FACTS  
and EVENTS that took place at *Wyoming*, and  
in the county of *Luzerne*, &c.

IN CONSEQUENCE

OF THE

DISPUTE WHICH EXISTED

BETWEEN THE

PENNSYLVANIA LAND-HOLDERS,

AND THE

CONNECTICUT INTRUDERS,

Commencing with the Year, 1763.

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LANCASTER:

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1804.

1877  
SEP 23

P E T I T I O N

PRESENTED

BY *[Name]*

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF

MISSISSIPPI

IN SENATE, FEBRUARY 14, 1877.

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE BODY

AGAINST THE

CONSTITUTION

AND

IN FAVOR OF THE

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

AND

IN FAVOR OF THE

CONSTITUTION

OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

IN WITNESS WHEREOF

WE HAVE HEREON SET OUR HANDS

AND AFFIXED OUR SEALS

THIS 14th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1877.



## *The Reader*

WILL be pleas'd to observe, that such parts of the following petition as are printed in *Italics*, were erased from the copy presented to the Legislature, and consequently not read in either House. But it having been the wish of the Petitioner and several others, that the *whole* of the Petition, as originally drafted by captain Patterson, should be published, it has accordingly been so done; distinguishing, however, by *italic letter*, the parts stricken out of the copy presented to the House, as aforesaid.

At one time it was contemplated to subjoin to the Petition, a number of documents which have completely substantiated the facts and charges therein contained; but finding a great proportion of them very voluminous, and others difficult of access, it was thought best to refer generally to those records in which the said documents may be found. These are, *The Acts of the Legislature of the Commonwealth; The Files and Records of the Land-office of Pennsylvania; and The Public News-papers published in the city of Philadelphia during the period referred to in the following narrative.*



A

## PETITION, &c.

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*To the Hon. the SENATE and HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met.*

The petition of ALEXANDER PATTERSON,  
of the borough of Easton, Pennsylvania,

*Respectfully Sheweth :—*

THAT as early as the year 1763, he commanded a post or station on the frontier against the Indians. And in the memorable campaign of 1764, to Oswego, Niagara, and Detroit, he was an active officer. In the year 1769, he was solicited by the late proprietary, John Penn, and chief justice Allen, to take an active part against the Connecticut Intruders, who were pursuing an unbounded claim to the westward, comprehending the forty-second degree of north latitude, to the South sea, from the river Delaware. In the month of February, same year, he proceeded with John Jennings, then sheriff of Northampton, and others, and brought to Easton goal, the first forty of the Intruders who had attempted to seat themselves at Wyoming. They were liberated upon their parole, promising to give no further trouble to Pennsylvania. They however with many others returned the March following, and pitched at Lahawanack, ten miles above Wyoming, on the north-east branch of Susquehannah,  
four

from whence he with others, again brought them off, at the distance of seventy-five miles; chiefly through a dreary wilderness, and a bad season.

The ensuing fall, there came upwards of two hundred Intruders, under the direction of a man of desperate fortune, of the name of Durgée, who built a fort and began to till the ground. They attempted to disposses the Pennsylvania settlers, armed with axes, sithes and clubs: Your Petitioner was in front of the opposition, and was severely wounded in the head with an axe; the Yankees were defeated and drove to their fort. Notwithstanding the loss of much blood, he that evening set off in a batteau, sixty-six miles down the river, to fort Augusta, at that time all the way uninhabited, hired hands, and brought up a cannon, met sheriff Jennings with the posse comitatus of Northampton, and took their garrison. Previous to this, your Petitioner had surpris'd and taken their commander Durgée, who was safely lodged in the jail of Philadelphia.

In the spring of 1770, the Intruders came again in considerable numbers, headed by a Zebulon Butler; your Petitioner was of the party who took them by surprize, and lodged Butler in the prison of Philadelphia. After a long confinement, judge Allen gave him money and clothes, on his promising never more to disturb the Province, and discharged him. But, instead of performing that solemn engagement, he (Butler) proceeded to Paxton, and induced those refractory out-laws, to join him in the intrusion project. They proceeded to Wyoming, and after having committed murder and many atrocious crimes, they drove the Pennsylvania settlers into a garrison, wherein was your Petitioner with many women and children, besieged nearly seven weeks, and was at length obliged to capitulate through famine, and deliver up the garrison to Butler, and the out-law Lazarus Stewart; some liyes were lost upon this occasion.

The Intruders after this, strengthened themselves, built forts, &c. Several of their ringleaders, by way of bravado, came into the interior of Northampton, to terrify the inhabitants; armed with rifles, tomohawks and scalping knives. Your Petitioner was among the foremost of their captors. They voluntarily swore before justice Depui, never more to aid or abet the Connecticut Claim, or Claimants; he with others accompanied those bravos to Wyoming, where by palpable perjury, they instantly joined their associate ruffians, and pointed their rifles hostilely against the friends of Pennsylvania, who had relied on their fidelity. The September following, your Petitioner was among the most active, who again took their garrison with much enterprise. He staid at Wyoming with others, to protect the country. A Yankee traitor conspired to murder him, he was provoked into the trap, and was shot through the arm and removed to Easton, under the care of doctor Ledlie; he lay four months in excruciating pain, with repeated signs of a mortification, and the amputating instruments prepared for severing the arm.

Those transactions were in the year 1771. In the spring of 1772, the Intruders came again and outraged the country barbarously, murdering captain Ogden and others; but were once more obliged to abandon their project, by the coercion of sheriff Kachlein and his posse. The ensuing harvest, the Banditti returned in force and dispoiled the Pennsylvania Settlers of their property of every kind. Various measures were pursued the two succeeding years, for their subjugation; your Petitioner having way-laid the road frequented by those ruffians, and conveyed many of them to prison, which greatly stopped their migration, and the extension of their settlement, until Northumberland became inhabited, and able to resist their encroachments. He has gone with his associates, through the Wilderness in the night; taken particular capital offenders; abated the Marauder's settlements; and expelled the despicable herd.

Late

Late in the fall of 1775, by the particular order of Governor Penn, he took the Yankee fort at Walinapack; the distance going and returning through a deep snow, exceeding one hundred miles. Energetic measures were invariably pursued against them, until our controversy with Great Britain grew serious. Congress recommended that hostilities should cease during the revolutionary war. This recommendation was strictly acquiesced in on the part of Pennsylvania, but disregarded by the *sedition* state of Connecticut, *who extended their blue-laws to Susquehannah and poured in their jail-birds in the interim, the solemn injunction of Congress to the contrary nevertheless.* In 1782 Congress was at length induced, at the instance of Pennsylvania, to take cognizance of the dispute, in consequence of which, a Congressional court was convened at Trenton, to hear and determine all matters between the two states. The result was, an unanimous decree, that all the controverted territory, jurisdiction and pre-emption, was of *the* right vested in the state of Pennsylvania, the long charter, Lydeas' counterfeit dollars and the rased deed notwithstanding. Your Petitioner attended this trial at a considerable expence.

In the year 1783, the Legislature *improperly interfered,* and appointed Joseph Montgomery, William Montgomery and Moses M'Clean, Commissioners, to proceed to Wyoming, to endeavour to bring about a compromise between the Intruders and the Legal Owners of the land. *This weak step induced those vagrants to imagine that this state was afraid of them.* In April, same year, the Commissioners aforesaid, repaired to Wyoming, with many of the rightful owners and former settlers, who expected no further trouble in their re-possession. A committee of each party was then recommended for the compromise. Your Petitioner presided on the part of Pennsylvania, and after every benevolent offer that could be expected, in presence of the Commissioners on his part: nothing appeared honest or unequivocal on the part of those sons of rapine; so that the Commissioners perceiving their impudent evasion, advised an election by the freeholders, for justices of the  
peace

into that hot-bed of sedition. The election was so held, and your petitioner was elected a justice, and a special act was passed the ensuing session of our Legislature to confirm it; authorising him or more upon the return to be commissioned. He attended the whole of the session in Philadelphia, and was commissioned the first magistrate for that refractory county; he proceeded to Wyoming, having a warrant of attorney from the owners of the land to lease or dispose of it on easy and moderate terms; sundry of the Intruders came under lease, but the undue influence of *Franklin, Buttler, Denison, Gore, Spalding, and other evil-disposed persons*, induced the lessees to forego their contracts, and to pursue their former practices of murder and rapine.

On your Petitioner's arrival at Wyoming as a justice, he found numbers very obstinate, in crowds, with Buttler, breathing defiance to Pennsylvania and her laws. He was not intimidated, but committed their Col. Buttler to Sunbury jail for a high misdemeanour, at the distance of sixty-six miles, who was held in five thousand pounds bail. Nevertheless, for very mistaken purposes, the culprit found surety and returned to Wyoming, covertly spiriting the Miscreants in opposition to the laws of this State. Your Petitioner begs the honorable Legislature to believe that he is not actuated by caprice, in giving epithets of infamy to the Connecticut Claimants, for it is a fact of notoriety, that by far the greatest part of them were crompt or branded; that being the insignia of punishment in the penal laws of that *inventive* State. *Such were and are the people, improperly cherished by the government of Pennsylvania, to the ruin of her faithful, brave, legitimate citizens.* He further begs the indulgence of the legislature for his digression, animadversion, sententious axioms and propositions; yet he conceives it a duty he owes to the present Legislature, to himself and fellow sufferers, with submission, to state facts and shew the iniquity and impropriety in retarding, withholding or bartering the property of individuals without their consent, under a feigned and flimsy pretext of expedience

pedience. Impairing of contracts is a flagrant violation of the constitution, and a serious and dangerous precedent; as encouraging depredation, felony and intrusion, is novel. It is humbly conceived, that it is not of necessity that the Constitution and ancient established laws, should be dispensed with, for fear of, or favour to a handful of vagrant interlopers in Luzerne. On the contrary, it is devoutly wished, that the laws in operation now in their favour, and injurious to your own ancient citizens, be repealed, and others instituted; whereby their possessions may be restored in a summary way, and at length have reason to bless the fostering hand of that government, which they have uniformly supported with their blood and treasure.

But to return to your Petitioner's official duties at Wyoming, he found himself by the dangerous combinations of the banditti and their abettors, unable to put the law in due operation. He, therefore, the ensuing session of our Legislature, applied for protection in the execution of his mission. They granted three companies of men; he was honoured with the nomination of the commanding, and most of the other officers; the troops were soon raised and arrived at Wyoming, under whose protection a great number of Pennsylvania people were re-settled upon their former possessions. In the summer of 1784 they did not raise less than thirty thousand bushels of grain. Our legislature met again, party ran high, and *they imprudently* passed a resolution to discharge the troops at the period they were most necessary, under the idea of its being unconstitutional to employ them in time of peace. Thus were they discharged, and the Insurgents thereby encouraged to rob, murder and barbarously mal-treat the Pennsylvania settlers indiscriminately, at their labour. They were armed in hordes in the woods, bands of whom would fall forth, and commit atrocities the most inhuman. They drove men, women and children into a garrison, and besieged them, constantly firing and frequently wounding those exposed to it. So regardless were they of the laws of this State, that they came to  
Northampton



Northampton, and shot Mr. Everret and wounded others, who were on their way in support of government, and eventually despoiled the settlers of all their grain, horses, cows, sheep, twine, waggons, ploughs and household furniture. In that season, (1784), your Petitioner, supported upwards of one hundred *and twenty* men, at his own expense, in defence of the rights of Pennsylvania, for more than four months; besides exposing his life and expending his time and property, against a set of abandoned desperadoes, excluded from society in every part of the Union, whose practice had long been to bully the State and pillage its citizens. He was relieved from the siege by the militia, commanded by brigadier-general Armstrong, who at that time was Secretary of this State. Previous to this, in the latter end of May, the Pennsylvania Settlers, had availed themselves of a favourable opportunity, and put the Intruders off, in like manner as the Yankees had done unto them heretofore. This gave a handle to certain unprincipled speculators, by whose *undue* influence, an *impolitic* law was passed, to re-possess the Intruders; whereby the legal owners of the land were ruined, instead of receiving protection, reward, and sanction.

In this *phrensy* of the Legislature, they sent Jonas Hartzel, Robert Brown, and Jacob Stroud, at that time members from Northampton, to enquire into the conduct of the Pennsylvania officers, in consequence of a mock petition from the *Insurgents*. Stroud had always been notoriously favourable to the Intruders, and discovered great partiality in the investigation. Your Petitioner, therefore, had him arraigned in the House, the ensuing session, and substantiated the facts in this simple business by his colleagues. No blame did or could attach to the Pennsylvania officers, whose duty it was to rid the country of the most infamous set of wretches ever collected in any part of the terraqueous globe. Stroud having clandestinely furnished the Intruders with public arms and ammunition, and having acknowledged a variance subsisting for fourteen years betwixt  
him

him and your Petitioner; he was emphatically told by the Speaker, that he was an unfit person for a Commissioner in the instance. Your Petitioner's duty imperiously demanding his attendance at Wyoming, further enquiry of Stroud's guilt was postponed, as will appear upon the minutes of the House, or he would have been expelled with his usual infamy. Your Petitioner supported and paid the chief part of the expenses of upwards of forty persons from Wyoming to Philadelphia, in the dead of winter in 1784 and 1785, to give evidence before the Supreme Executive Council, of the robbery and other depredations committed upon them and others, by the Connecticut Ravagers *under the immediate direction of their commander, John Franklin.*

In the ensuing spring, your Petitioner, employed captain Enoch Anderson, at Trenton, to go to Wyoming to find out the purposed projects of the Yankees, as they had suggested the idea of a new state. Captain Anderson was directed to meet your Petitioner at New-York, where Congress was sitting, and where he had carried the testimony taken by the Secretary of this State, as before observed, by which means our delegate and counsel, Mr. Wilson, defeated the motion of the Connecticut Johnson for a new trial. Congress was apprised of their *villainous* pursuits, and would have nothing further to do with the *Miscreants*. All those expenses, your Petitioner paid out of his own pocket, and by men of consideration, they will not be deemed inconsiderable. The next year our Legislature *instituted the infamous county of Luzerne, consequently the Leaders of the Banditti were commissioned, as if trampling upon the laws, and every species of the blackest criminality, were a recommendation to posts of honour and profit.* The above, and the *unconstitutional Confirming Law*, as it was called, was brought about by Pickering, Willson, Morris, Fitzsimmons, Clymer, and others, of the aristocratical faction, whose projects were to purchase all the fat lands in the vicinity of Wyoming, at a little price, and so become lords of the manor; but the Yankees found  
out

out the schemes of their renegado brother Pickering, tied him among the musketoes in the woods, put fire to his house and afterwards exiled him.

*The sad effects of all this is, that the State has unadvisedly cherished its inveterate, despicable enemies, cherished evil-doers, and neglected merit. Run the State to an enormous expense, in enacting laws and repealing them, and trains of time-serving, needy, poltroon, upstart commissioners, and useless agents; fawning sycophants, degraded, shameless and impudent trash, who for fear of being discontinued in pay, have the effrontery to advocate the Intruders, and prolong their salaries at the expense of whom it may concern; to drain our Treasury and stop the course of justice, to the ruin of many individuals who have fairly purchased and paid their money, before those gentry had emerged from that obscurity where they ought to have been eternally consigned. Thousands, with your petitioner, have long wondered what could insatiate the former Legislatures of this State, to be so indulgent and favourable to the Connecticut Intruders. Liberality may construe it into imposition; but it has been shewn that all have not been imposed upon, and that some have been actuated by motives dishonourable to themselves, the State and their constituents, consequently bad preceptors to their successors.*

*Your petitioner begs leave to mention some causes, which he imagines, in all human probability, could not induce so much fraternity and partial favour. He believes that the honour of having John Franklin, a member of the Legislature of this State, could hardly have induced it; because he has been uniformly opposed to the rights of Pennsylvania, and has advocated the Connecticut Claim, on the floor of the Legislature of this State, contrary to his oath of office; Nor because he was twenty months in close confinement in the prisons of this State, for misprision of Treason, or violating the terms of his liberation, by taking the lead in further intrusion; Nor because he headed a band of Proclaimed Ruffians, who robbed the Pennsylvania Settlers at Wyoming, in the fall of 1784, of all their property; Nor because it is believed, that he governed*  
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*the verdict which acquitted Joel Thomas, of the barbarous murder of colonel Arthur Erwin, a gentleman of large property and much respectability. This catastrophe has evinced what might, or may be expected from juries in the county of Luzerne; Nor can it be supposed that it was the respectability of the Intruders, which made them such favourites, for their great offender and leader, Butcher, as was currently reported, had fled his country, concealed in a load of hay; Nor could it be, for what has been already said of cropping and branding; Nor the cruel murder of Nathan Ogden, Jesse Lukens, William Richards, and others, with innumerable atrocities of the highest criminality.*

The burthen of the Intruders complaint, by which they have hitherto excited false commiseration, rested upon the cruel treatment they say they have received from the Pennsylvania Settlers, the Indians and Tories. The first of these complaints, viz. The Pennsylvania Settlers, has been fairly explained in the preceding part of this petition. The latter, respecting the Indians and Tories, shall be faithfully detailed.

In the year 1776, there were a number of inhabitants settled on the north-east branch of Susquehannah, near Wyalusing, under the Pennsylvania Title. Among those were two brothers of a respectable family from Montgomery county, by the name of Pauling, who had paid one thousand pounds in cash, in gold and silver, for their farm at Wyalusing, unto Joab Gileway, a useful, well informed Indian, who had obtained a grant for said land from the late Proprietaries of this State; among the settlers were the Messrs. Secords, Depew, Vanderless, and many other wealthy farmers; the Yankees at Wyoming being more numerous, and though at the distance of sixty miles, insisted that the Pennsylvania Settlers should come to Wyoming and train, and associate under Yankee officers of their own appointment. As may be supposed, the proposal was very obnoxious to the inhabitants of Pennsylvania, and very properly refused, alleging that they would associate by themselves

themselves, and would not be commanded by Intruders, who had so repeatedly sacked the well disposed inhabitants of Pennsylvania, and at that time bid defiance to its laws and jurisdiction. This gave a pretext to the Yankees for calling them Tories; they therefore went in force, and tied the Pennsylvania Settlers, and brought them to Wyoming with all their moveables, and confined them in a log house, until the Indians who lived in the neighbourhood of Wyalusing, and who loved the Pennsylvanians, and at that time were well affected to the United States, some of whom had joined our army. Those Indians came to Wyoming, and requested that the Pennsylvania people should be released from confinement; after some altercation and the Indians declaring that they would complain to Congress, they were released, and on their return without property, were ambushed and fired upon by the Yankees. The event of all this was, that the Pennsylvania People were so harrassed by the Intruders, that they were driven to seek an asylum with the Indians, and at length retire to Niagara for protection. It was well known at that time on the frontiers of Northumberland and Northampton, that the conduct of those Yankees occasioned the secession of the Five Nations from the United States. As was natural to imagine, those Pennsylvania Settlers, who had been so cruelly robbed of their property would endeavour to regain it, their address and moving complaints, induced Joseph Brandt, a well known Indian chief, and a colonel Buttler, Superintendant of Indian Affairs, to come with them to Wyoming, with a number of Indians, for the recovery of their goods and chattels. The party had arrived at a place called Abraham's plains, about five miles above Wyoming; the Yankees were apprised of their being at that place, and must needs go fight them, led on by the old murderer Lazarus Stewart, first having drank two barrels of whisky to stimulate their spirits; they marched in riot, with drums beating and colours flying. The result was, that a number of them were killed; those who asked quarters were humanely treated, nor was a woman or child molested, only enjoined to quit the country and leave it for  
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the rightful owners. Surely there was no propriety in calling that transaction a massacre or murder; the wretches brought it upon themselves, and so be it. Your Petitioner had at that time, been assigned a district in the Quarter-Master General's Department, north of the mountain in Jersey and Pennsylvania, by major general Greene and colonel Hooper. Notwithstanding the former enmity, all the Vagrants that left Wyoming at that time, came to him for succour, his charity superceded prejudice, and for their support ordered them rations out of the public stores; if there were any widows among them, they were very merry ones, and their conduct induced no respect, nor could it be expected, as most of their women, like their men, were of the lowest order of beings.

The above sufferings, as they have been called, and many more ill-founded reasons, have been improperly urged as a palliative, for the *unconstitutional* interposition of the Legislature, *who have wantonly ruined as meritorious, active and brave citizens, as any ever bred in the State. They have made bargains for them, in which they have had no agency; the business has hitherto favoured more of despotism than republicanism. But why this imbeciling, carressing, and temporising with vagrant Intruders; This medly farce of iniquity Retrospect the rabble so patronised, and balance their merit with those who have defended your country against their inroads; common honesty, and humanity revolt at the idea. It is the bounden duty of a Legislature to remedy evils, however they may have crept in or originated, whether through the rancor of party spirit, imposition, or speculative views. The sooner wrongs are remedied the better; it is never too late to do good. The most lively hopes are therefore entertained, that the present Legislature will take the most efficient measures for the recovery and protection of their antient citizens' property, which has been so long withheld by violence and perfidy, and thereby acquit their consciences, and at length establish just principles, redounding to their honour and fame.*

Further

Further, to induce the honourable Legislature to a favourable recognition of your Petitioner's claim, he begs leave to subjoin, a summary narrative of his transactions in the army of the United States in the revolutionary war. He was commissioned by his excellency, John Hancock, first captain, in the twelfth Pennsylvania regiment, early in 1776, and had often the honour of commanding it by reason of indisposition of the colonel, and incapacity of the other field-officers. After the capture of the Hessians at Trenton, the battle of Princeton, he was stationed during the residue of that winter and spring, on the most advanced post in the American army, being within one mile of Bonhamtown, New-Jersey, where the British 71st regiment and royal Highlanders lay. General Washington's head-quarters being at Morristown, twenty miles in the rear, and Howe's army in Brunswick. Few days passed in the months of February, March or April, that he did not skirmish with the enemy; they being in want of forrage, &c. were often endeavouring to plunder the country, and were as often happily drove in. During the above enumerated months, he fought the British sundry times, with success; in April by a particular order from the General, he commanded a select body of men, with which he took the British picquet at Bonhamtown, an account of which may be seen, on the files of Hall and Seller's news-papers, under the Philadelphia head, April 23, 1777. The duties in the above year were arduous. He had general thanks on the public parade for signal address in the battle of Brandywine. In Germantown he lost his lieutenant and many brave soldiers: at White-marsh his superior knowledge in discipline, was esteemed by general Conway, who possessed a greater knowledge of tacticks than any man in America. In the memorable wet day and night near the Paoli, your Petitioner, put his baggage into the regimental quarter master's waggon, who deserted to the British, with the contents, and did not leave him a second shirt; those losses at that period were not easily replaced. On the reduction of the Pennsylvania line, he was immediately assigned a

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district

district in the quarter-master general's department, by major general Greene and colonel Hooper, as has been said. It is sufficient to say, that he acquitted himself with alacrity and promptitude, and to the entire satisfaction of all the general officers, and gentlemen with whom he had ought to do. He never received commutation, arrears of clothing, nor donation lands from this State.

The honourable Legislature, will please to excuse a short recapitulation in summing the facts, wherein your Petitioner has shewn, that as early as 1763 and 1764, he was in the American service in various successful situations on the frontier against the Indians, to Oswego, Niagara, Detroit, &c. that in, and since the year 1769, he has been among the most active, in opposition to the Connecticut Claimants, and in many conflicts with them. He has been twice severely wounded by them. That he uniformly continued the opposition, until the interposition of Congress, at the commencement of the war, previous to which, for upwards of five years his exertion and enterprise in behalf of this state have been perhaps unequalled, and are of such a nature that he fondly hopes they will impress the Legislature favourably in his behalf. The proofs accompanying this petition, will shew his claim to merit in the line of the army, as in other capacities. It will also be perceived, that in 1783, as has been said, that he was by a special act of our Legislature, commissioned the first justice of the peace to introduce the laws of Pennsylvania, among a nest of the most atrocious villains that were ever assembled on earth. It may be easily conceived, that this undertaking required fortitude and enterprise; how far your Petitioner possessed those qualities, may be gathered from the strictures in his petition. The whole tenour of his conduct his danger and expenditure will induce a belief that all his efforts were well intended. Our Governor's letter to the Governor of Maryland, dated the 25th of October 1802, respecting the Susquehannah navigation, very pointedly and justly observes, that "He who trusts to a Legislative security ought never to be a looser." This will apply in  
similar



similar cases, and in none stronger, than that of your Petitioner, who has spent his blood, his treasure and the best part of his days, in faithful services to this State. It will surely be conceded that the vigorous and early opposition made to the Intruders, by your Petitioner, his associates and followers, most of whom have paid the debt of nature, have obviously saved to this State, the whole of the forty second degree of north latitude, to the westernmost boundary of Pennsylvania, from the river Delaware, from being over-run by the Connecticut Claimants, their aiders and abettors. To prove this position, needs only to know the perseverance of the Intruders, and at that early period there were no inhabitants in Northumberland, nor any settlements of white people to the westward, whereby the dangerous and daring intrusion could have been repelled. We have a specimen of the consequences that would have ensued from the inconsiderable handful yet remaining; that portending, immensurable evil has been happily limited to Wyoming and its vicinity, whereby an incalculable source of wealth has consequently flowed into your treasury.

Your Petitioner, therefore, humbly conceives that few persons have rendered more beneficial services to the State. He prays that the honourable Legislature, now that he is old, will make such provision for him as may render the residue of his days comfortable. It will be no more than honestly compensating him out of his own earning; he hopes to be placed above the vicissitudes of fortune, with a pension and rations for life, commencing and commensurate with his rank. In his advanced stage of life, an annuity modified as above, must soon cease by the course of nature. He has a firm reliance upon the dignity of the present Government; but should it be suggested that part of the enumerated services were rendered before the State was purchased of the late proprietaries, and therefore not obligatory on the State after the purchase; for answer, every incumbent and contract antecedent, is a lien upon the purchaser, particularly where a perpetuity  
of

of benefit derives to the State. Your Petitioner has no doubt that had the State remained in the family of the Penns, and he so applied, they would at least have compensated him with a grant of land which would have rendered him independent, and perhaps his children's children. He perceives no principle why the State should be less just and generous, or turn a deaf ear to merit and a well founded claim, nor that the time, blood and treasure of an individual so liberally expended, should be absorbed in the confluence, or stain the rising glory of our enviable happy country.

Having thus far evinced the merits of his claim, he cheerfully confides it to the benignity of the government, with one further remark and effort to impress the subject, that the express act of Assembly of 1783, for commissioning him, the raising troops for protecting him, the President's proclamation for apprehending certain Connecticut Banditti, who grievously wounded Henry Brink and Wilhelmus Van-Gorden, who were at that time under your Petitioner's particular orders, with others, protecting the Pennsylvania settlers at their labour *from Franklin's savagers*; also the Secretary's requisition to him, to draw forth the well affected inhabitants in that country in aid of the militia against the Intruders, who were accordingly so drawn out; all shew, that he had the confidence and concurrence of the Executive. He was three months waylaid by the Yankee desperadoes, who avowed their purpose of assassinating him; they set fire to the house in the night, over his head, murdered captain Samuel Reed, in the bed with him, and cruelly wounded captain Andrew Henderson.

Your Petitioner respectfully asks indulgence for a short comment upon a recent publication in the Luzerne Federalist and Susquehannah Intelligencer, as it is arrogantly entitled, printed by A. and C. Miner, in ten numbers, which they term a statement of facts, by the directors of the Susquehannah company in behalf of themselves and all concerned, and addressed to their fellow-citizens of the United States, under the signature

ture of Samuel Avery, President, and Joseph Kingsbury, clerk, pro. tem. dated Ulster, September 13th 1803. Strangers to those plunderers and their impudent nefarious pursuits, will pass their libelous numbers unnoticed, only wondering, what can be the intention of the publication by those endless pests to society. But those who have any knowledge of them, will perceive that this is no new specimen of their calumny. Should the Legislature of Pennsylvania, or any of its members, deign to read their scurrilous publications, they will find them calculated to excite pity, or to appear formidable, and either way to induce further legislation in their behalf; but surely their numbers, which out-number all calculation in falsehood, so replete with disingenuity, declamation and impertinence, must at length convince the Legislature that all former favour and indulgence to such outrageous *rabble* have been sadly misplaced, as there appears to be no end to their unfounded claims, complaints and daring impudence. There is a striking likeness in their disposition to the wolf, tame, supple and fawning, when in trammels; but unfetter them, and your country is ravaged. Wherever a record of this State has recognised their *villainy*, they have perverted and wrested its meaning, as a deistical preacher does his text, to give currency to his infernal doctrine, and cover invention, without respect to truth, honour or honesty. Your Petitioner, would be greatly disappointed, if those Itinerant Adventurers, could part from the character of their predecessor, Lydeas, who purchased their claim of the Indians, with counterfeit dollars, or the authors of the rasured deed; on the contrary, they have out-lyed all the swindling, peregrine, cropt and branded *scap-gallows*, from *the far famed State of Connecticut*. Your Petitioner, most respectfully submits his Claims to the honourable Legislature of Pennsylvania, confident that his steady perseverance in support of her rights, maintaining at every risk, with the utmost constancy and unre-mitted exertion, the sovereignty of the State, will induce the honourable Legislature, to grant him a generous remuneration

muneration, when gratitude will excite your Petitioner, as in duty bound, to pray.

ALEX. PATTERSON.

NOTE.—*The Documents accompanying the above Petition, have substantiated the facts therein, and fully convinced the Legislature, (John Franklin, and a few of his associates excepted) of its authenticity, as will appear from both Houses having passed an act in favour of the Petitioner, which was approved and signed by Governor M. Kean, on the tenth day of February 1804.*

ALEX. PATTERSON.

Lancaster, February 12th, 1804.

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☞ *Since the preceding pages were put to press, the following papers have been delivered for publication, with a view to have them annexed to Capt. Patterson's Petition. The motives for thus connecting them with that petition are two-fold—first to exhibit the unexampled effrontery, and total disregard of law, justice and the solemn decisions of the highest judicial courts known within the United States, of those violators of our laws, the Connecticut Intruders; and secondly, to shew that their own language, expressions and epithets, are as harsh and exceptionable, as any that have been used by Mr. Patterson, but without having the same just cause for using them that that meritorious, but unfortunate sufferer had.*

*The following papers are perfectly genuine, and their authenticity may be implicitly relied upon. The first of them was read by Mr. MACLAY, in his place, in the House of Representatives, on the discussion of the Bill for allowing an annuity to Capt. Patterson, and is extracted*

From the *Luzerne Federalist, and Susquehanna Intelligencer*, printed at Wilkesbarre, by A. and C. Miner, under date of August 20th 1803.

“ COMMUNICATION.

“ At a meeting of the inhabitants and settlers of Sugar-creek-settlement (settled under the Connecticut Susquehanna Company’s purchase) at the house of J. Ballad, the 2d. on said creek, on Monday the 10th day of August, 1803:—Nathan Fellows was chosen chairman and Nathaniel Allen, clerk, of said meeting. After taking into consideration the situation of the settlers and inhabitants so as aforesaid convened, and what may be the object or views of the adverse claimants, in sending an agent or spy, amongst us—It was unanimously *Resolved*:

1st. That we believe we have a just, regular, and genuine title to the lands which we now possess and occupy.—That *our title is derived, and can be regularly traced from THE GREAT PROPRIETOR AND MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE*, whom we expect and firmly believe, will defend us as a warrantee: provided we forsake him not, nor turn aside to accept offers made from those, whom we believe have no better right to the lands in question than Satan had to the kingdoms of the earth which he shewed our Saviour from the Mount.

2d. That the example our Saviour there set us, ought to be the one for us to follow, as we believe we cannot serve God and Mammon at the same time; nor can we at present see any medium between the two; to listen therefore, to any colloquial propositions of a false import, proposed, propagated or handed about, by those who we believe are employed by a set of speculators who wish to involve us in ruin, is incompatible with our true interest, and would be highly derogatory to our understandings as men possessing *equal rights and equal immunities* with all the citizens at large.

3rd. That

3d. That we believe the person who has lately been among us in the character of an agent, to be no better than a *spy*, who wishes to ascertain our names, and places of abode, for illicit purposes, to injure us in our just rights. And we also strongly suspect, from good grounds, that this same pretended agent, or spy, was sometime last fall, amongst us in the habiliments of a beggar, and with an affected appearance of insanity, seeking out our habitations, and traversing all our roads and by-paths.

4th. That the above resolutions be signed by our chairman and clerk, and transmitted to the printers of the Luzerne Federalist and Susquehannah Intelligencer, with a request that the same may be inserted therein; and likewise a copy of a letter directed to Doct. Rose, by us the persons composing the meeting aforesaid.

NATHAN FELLOWS, *Chairman.*  
NATHANIEL ALLEN, *Clerk.*"

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*" Copy of a letter sent by the subscribers, to Dr. ROSE, who stiles himself agent for the Pennsylvania land-jobbers, claiming land, owned and occupied by the subscribers, Connecticut Settlers.*

*Burlington, August 1st. 1803.*

*" Doctor Rose,  
Sir,*

A long and unhappy dispute has existed in this country in respect to the land which affords subsistence for ourselves, our wives and our children. The title to those lands we have honestly purchased, and sincerely believe we can trace a regular chain of title from THE GOD OF NATURE. Still, Sir, there seems to be power vested in a certain portion of our fellow mortals to harrass and oppress us. In this posture of events, you have appeared among  
us

us, assuming the character of a mediator, but have shewn no evidence of authority from any man or set of men. You assume to offer terms, but do not deign to express what they are.—You have with unwearied pains, traversed every part of our settlement, endeavoring, as far as in your power, to *pradice* on us the vilest impositions; to destroy that harmony which unites us like a band of brothers in the cause of justice. We therefore, Sir, hope you will not call on us again, or give us any further trouble about your business, as your conduct has been as impudent and rascally, as it is intriguing; and as you have been very solicitous to obtain our signatures, we herewith subscribe to you, after expressing a small portion of our sentiments respecting you and your business.

“ Timothy Beach, Ephraim Cleveland, Jehiel Ferris, Philip Belinus, Jarus Cook, John Green, Elishu Smead, Reuben Cafe, Elias Loomis, Levi Soper, Ammi Swain, David White, Scytavus Elworth, John Lindley, Paul Dewit, Cephas Campbell, James Campbell, Oliver Hoit, Daniel Buron, Samuel Satterlee, Samuel Bowers, Elisha Lathrop, Jacob Miller, Nathan Fellows, John Dobbins, Moses Calkins, Joseph Barber, Samuel Balding, William Johnson, Henry Lawrence, Isaac Swain, David Campbell, Noadiah Kendall, James Braphet, Constant Williams, Isaac Balding, Dutce Rice, Damarious Gerrould, John Barber, David Rofs, Oliver Haize, Caleb Williams, Nathan Ballard, Ebenezer Kendall, William Knap, Amos Cook, Walter Hamilton, Thomas Ballard, jun. Jonathan Goatridge, Luther Godard, Nathaniel Allen, Stephen Bates, William Nicols, Jeremiah Westcoat, Jeremiah Miller, Thomas Ballard, Lewis Moffett, Nathan Morgan, Ebenezar Wilson, jun. C. Ferris.”

IN addition to the preceding specimen of the insolence of the Connecticut Intruders, and their outrageously setting at defiance the principles of justice, and the laws of their country, full and ample testimony of their inveterate enmity to morality and the principles of the social compact, could easily be adduced by a re-publication of those shameful productions which appeared in the Luzerne Federalist, during the course of last year, and which are referred to, in the foregoing Petition. But as they are too lengthy for insertion here, a few short extracts will be given from those productions, which are falsely styled "A Statement of Facts, by the President and Directors of the Susquehannah Company," &c.

From the Luzerne Federalist, of September 24th, 1803, "In the latter part of August or beginning of September, 1762, near 200 Connecticut People, left their native State, to seek a future subsistence in the wilds of Susquehannah, having as they thought a just right so to do." [ That is, in other words, a right to seize and rob the honest part of the community of their property, without a shadow of title thereto. ] Again, same paper—"The 15th day of October, the next year, these people were attacked by a party of Indians, nearly twenty of them killed, and the remainder either captivated or dispersed." [ Here to be sure is a woe-ful affair! the "untutored," unlettered and unbaptised savages of the wilderness, were determined to defend at every hazard, that property which had been solemnly secured to them by treaty, even against the followers of the faithful—the *pious* Yankees, whose historians, or other writers, had declared that *the Lord had delivered the land of the heathen into their hands!* ] Same paper—"In this situation, the country remained until 1769, when the persevering Yankees, unwilling to forego their prospects at the Susquehannah, emigrated again from their native State, in number about 240. They arrived early in the spring; erected new habitations; cleared land and planted corn, &c. But were not permitted long to remain in peace; Col. Francis of Philadelphia, was sent against them,



them, with a body of armed men, and demanded them to surrender; they refused to comply with this requisition, and Francis and his party withdrew, after giving out many threats of vengeance. But in the month of September following, Amos and Nathan Ogden, with a party of Pennsylvania and New-Jersey men, were skulking about the settlement, and committing many outrages on the Settlers. This party having soon increased to rising of 200, appeared openly on the ground, well armed with rifles, muskets and one cannon, with a determination to drive the Settlers out of the country. To this formidable force, the Settlers were obliged to submit and quit the premises, all but 14 men, who were permitted to tarry on the ground, and keep possession of the land till the dispute should be settled in a legal way."—[How well the Connecticut Intruders have adhered to this stipulation, their subsequent perfidy and violation of engagements, will attest to the world.] One more extract from the same paper, "January 1771, Charles Stewart, the two Ogdens, and a party of armed men, arrived again at Wyoming, and made several attempts to set fire to the houses of the Settlers, threatening them with immediate destruction; the Settlers defended themselves in the best manner they could, *killed Nathan Ogden*, while attempting to set fire to one of their houses; upon this the whole party withdrew. Capt. Lazarus Stewart, soon after returned, leaving about ten families in possession of a block-house; they were taken, however, soon after and the men sent to goal. The Pennsylvania Claimants had now cleared the Wyoming settlements of all the Yankees; but remained in possession no longer than July the same year, at which time, upwards of 100 Yankees again returned, under the command of the then captains Zebulon Buttler and Lazarus Stewart, and laid siege to a fort commanded by a Col. Clayton." [Thus did these disturbers of the peace and prosperity of Pennsylvania, persevere in their wicked and unwarrantable design of violently appropriating the property of this State to themselves and their adherents.]

In

In the Luzerne Federalist, of October 8th, 1803, we find the following expressions. "If Pennsylvania had a just claim to the lands, the Connecticut settlers have paid for it by their richest blood."—"Pennsylvania made Justices of the Peace, or rather gave men commissions of the Peace—whether do *justice* or not, let our readers determine,"—"Capt. Christie arrived at Wyoming, escorted by a large number of voluntary hirelings, sent on by the Pennsylvania Claimants."—These expressions require no comment.—In the same paper, of the 15th of October, 1803—the Pennsylvanians are styled "Rioters," "Free-booters" and "Russians."

The same Luzerne Federalist, of the 22d of October, 1803, after giving a detailed statement of the return of votes at the election held in that county, very triumphantly and significantly adds the following remarks.

"The enemies of Federalism have exulted exceedingly at the success of what they are pleased to call the Democratic Republican ticket, at the late election. The fact is this: *a majority of the electors of Luzerne, have a full belief in the validity of the Connecticut title to lands in this county, and evince more spirit in support of its advocates than on any other occasion.* Col. Franklin, is well known to be a decided Federalist, and *a firm Yankee*; he has a greater number of votes than any other candidate. Cols. Jenkins and Hyde, were nominated by the Democratic delegates who met at Hancock's; they were successful; not as Democrats, *but as Yankees*,—and as such, received the support of many decided Federalists."—

*The following is extracted from the Luzerne Federalist of December 10th, 1803, but does not apparently appear to have been issued by the Susquehanna Company.*

“COMMUNICATION.

“*To the People in the Fifteen Towns.*

“AS the time is now drawing near, when you will be called upon to come forward and deliver up your *old deeds* and documents, respecting a just and righteous title to your lands, for which you are to receive “*a little bit of paper,*” called a certificate; permit me to call your serious and candid attention to the following questions.

1st. If the controversy is to be settled in the mode of adjustment now pursuing, *why* is it necessary that you should be obliged to surrender up the evidence of your title, as derived from the state of Connecticut; unless it be to enable the State of Pennsylvania, to make you back the same title, and oblige you to pay for it into the bargain?

2nd. Would a title thus made out, be thought more just, more legal, and be held more sacred, than our title in its primitive state? If not, then are you not going to obligate yourselves to pay for that, for which you have already *paid* and which you have already got a LEGAL RIGHT TO?

3rd. If your title as derived from the State of Connecticut (as your opponents pretend) “*a no title,*” and your claim “*unfounded,*” why do they demand your title deeds? Is it not for this plain reason, viz. knowing that not one of you out of an hundred, will ever be able to pay for your lands, as appraised under the Compromising Law, they wish

to get your evidence of a title as derived from the State of Connecticut, into their own hands, that hereafter (should you be reduced to a state of tenantry) it may not be set up against their unjust pretensions?

4th. But is there not another reason why they ought not to demand your old deeds and documents? The law as it was first passed, did not require a condition of that kind; but after you had consented to comply with the law in its first shape, new conditions were annexed; therefore is it not unconstitutional and unjust, to demand that which was not in the condition of the contract, when first entered into?

5th. What is the nature of a COMPROMISE? Is it not a mutual adjustment of differences between two or more contending parties, in which each party has a right to make part of the bargain, and did you make any part of that law, commonly called the Compromising Law? Were you even consulted on the business, or did they send it forth to you as an imperious lord sends forth a mandate to his slaves? Do this or prepare yourselves for a scourging!

6th. Have you not already had sufficient experience of the faith of this State, did they not once pass a law called a "Confirming Law" (to induce you to come under their jurisdiction) and after you had consented to come under their government, did they not repeal that law, on the ground of its being unconstitutional?

7th. Do you remember the promises of Armstrong and Boyd, that they on the eighth day of August, 1784, pledged the FAITH OF GOVERNMENT, (Pennsylvania,) and their own honor, that, if you would lay down your arms, no advantage should be taken on that account and that you should have them again in ten days; and afterwards, how some of you were put in irons, coupled two and two, bound with ropes, and sent to Easton jail, under these directions, from Armstrong and Boyd, that if one

of you attempted to escape, the whole should immediately be put to death! and government would stand between them (the Ruffians who guarded you) and any blame? It was not enough for you to surrender your arms, and never get them again; but now, forsooth, you are demanded to surrender your deeds and documents, respecting a title which they dare not put their's in competition with in a fair, candid, and impartial trial.

SCANDERBEG."

Luzerne county, Nov. 1803.

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*There being so little to be found in the Yankee paper, adverse to their title, that we cannot forbear extracting the following, (in reply to the preceding communication,) from the Luzerne, Federalist, of the 17th, of December, 1803.*

“ COMMUNICATION.

“ Dec. 15th, 1803.

“ Messrs. Miners.

“ MUCH of your paper has been occupied by the President and Directors of the Susquehanna Company, as well as by many other writers in support of what they call a just and righteous title; all legal modes of trial having failed their purposes, one would have expected that after their appeal to the people, the subject would be at rest, having been allowed to say every thing they pleased without contradiction, notwithstanding the many gross errors and misrepresentations therein by them made, well known to the Old Settlers and those conversant with the transactions of those times; but we yet see your paper the vehicle of inflammatory communications. The object of a communication published in your paper of the 10th instant,

may

may easily be conceived, there can be no doubt the writer is not an inhabitant of the 15 townships, or did not belong to them at the time of the passing of the Act of 1799, called the Quieting Act, and secondly, that he has an interest to serve, different from the Settlers in the townships and which the Quieting Act does not reach, whose object and views no doubt would be to set every thing afloat, and by this means, hinder the peace, happiness, and order of society among ourselves, and the laws of our government from being carried into effect, and in the event rather see the valuable improvements in the townships laid waste, than see them prosper under the present encouraging mode of settling the disputes in the townships.

He mentions *a little bit of paper*, with sneering and derision; What does this little bit of paper contain? Ask a Settler in the 15 townships who has received his certificate, and he will tell you it contains a draft of the lands claimed and certified agreeable to law, by the State commissioners, and is the ground for a title: It also settles and shuts out other Claimants of either Pennsylvania or Connecticut, puts an end to all controversies that may have been heretofore supposed to have existed, and places the titles in the 15 townships on an original and sure basis. The Claimants are already feeling the advantage thereof. Property is rising in value near an hundred per cent. and who will doubt their ability to pay the easy instalments of the valuation, when compared with the advancing prices. These circumstances may be mortifying to some, but a pleasing fact to the holders of the little bit of paper called a certificate.

I shall now notice Mr. Scanderbeg's questions in their order.

The first question he asks "Why is it necessary to deliver up the evidence of your title, &c?"

In answer, the law has made it necessary.

Second

Second question—"Will the title thus made out, be more legal than our title?"

I answer, your titles are not recognized by the law, but these titles are.

Third question—"Why demand your title deeds?"

I answer, to prevent fraud and *litigation*.

Fourth question—"Is it not unconstitutional and unjust, to demand that which was not in the condition of the contract when first entered into?"

I answer, that an amendment to the Act was asked for by the Claimants, by way of supplement to the Act, and if this can be compared to an agreement between parties, any amendment that was thought to be a general good, and not a partial evil to the parties, when the Act was open for amendment, was just and right to be adopted. This with the foregoing answers and introduction may suffice to answer the fifth, sixth and seventh questions.

*PACIFICUS.*"

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This publication shall now be brought to a close, with a few cursory observations. The few extracts which are given from the publications in the Luzerne Federalist, will surely be deemed by every dispassionate person to abound with unfounded assertions, base defamation, and most inflammatory stimulants, to the ungovernable passions of a wild and disorderly set of adventurers. Consequently, tho' they may not fully exonerate the much abused Captain Patterfson, for the epithets he has thought proper to use, yet they will undoubtedly tend greatly to extenuate his fault.

There

There is another remark, alike due to the cause of the truth, order, government and the Pennsylvania Claim, and that is, the Connecticut Intruders cannot shew the smallest particle of title to the lands in question. They are, in every sense of the word, Intruders. They never made a fair or bona fide purchase of those lands from the Indians—and even if they done so (which, however, it is strenuously contended they did not) it was a perfectly illegal and unauthorized Act; no Legislature upon the face of the earth, having ever authorized them to make such a purchase, not a single cent was ever paid by the Susquehanna Company, either to the State of Pennsylvania, or the State of Connecticut, for the lands in Luzerne county. This assertion can be unquestionably proven by a number of authentic original documents remaining in the Land-office of Pennsylvania. Among these, are the orders from the King of Great-Britain, to the Governor of Pennsylvania, before the revolution, to expel the Yankee Intruders, from what is now called the county of Luzerne; and the letters which passed between Governor Hamilton and the Governor of Connecticut on this interesting subject. It will clearly appear from the letters, that the Governor of Connecticut most unequivocally declares that the State of Connecticut had never sold, nor authorized any intrusion upon the lands of Pennsylvania, that Connecticut had never instituted or created any such associations as the Susquehanna or Delaware Companies, and would therefore urge nothing in behalf of those Intruders. From this plain and fair statement of facts, every man will be capable of judging with what truth that wandering horde of Connecticut Adventurers, could say they *believed* they had a *just title* to the lands in controversy. If, as they impiously assert, they derive it from THE GOD OF NATURE, let them shew their *title deeds!*

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#### ERRATA.

Immediately after the catch word "peace," at the bottom of page 8, add the following words, "for the more immediately introducing the laws"













SEP 77



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